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W. Meredit  
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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 401021

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

MAEKAWA et al.

Application No.: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: January 16, 2001

Examiner: Unassigned

For: SOFTWARE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, with:

The present invention relates to a software management system comprising a network system which includes a center server and a local server connected to the center server via a wide-area network, such that the center server manages the whole wide-area network. More particularly, the invention relates to a software management system which features an improved function